

Grant Overview

Emergency Responder Interface with Ferry Systems (ERIFS) Curriculum Development and Training And Ferry Passenger Partnership Program

Background: In the fall of 2005, John Fortugno, Director of the Homeland Security Institute (HSI), a division of the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, applied for and received a highly competitive \$1,000,000 Homeland Security Grant to bolster safety and security efforts related to terrorism concerning U.S. ferry system responders, and the Washington State Ferry System (WSF) and its passengers. The grant was one of 13 awardees among over 400 applicants.

Project Partners include:

The Washington State Department of Transportation / Washington State Ferries, Washington State Patrol, Washington State Emergency Management Division, Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Pierce College (Center of Excellence for Homeland Security), Clover Park Technical College / Rainier Media, Olympic College (Readiness Response Institute) and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Why the grant was awarded: The Federal Bureau of Investigation has identified ferry systems as the number one potential maritime terrorist target in the U.S. The Washington State Ferry System is the largest in the nation. An attack on one of the larger commuter boats could result in a higher number of deaths than an attack on commercial aircraft or trains. Ferries are also continually at risk of an accident or a natural disaster.

What the Grant includes: There are two overarching outcomes of the grant. The first is to train emergency responders who would interface with ferries in times of crisis, and the second is to train ferry passengers.

These two main elements are provided for in the Emergency Responder Interface with Ferries (ERIFS) Curriculum and Training Program and The Ferry Passenger Partnership Program.

The Ferry Passenger Partnership Program: will train ferry passengers (particularly commuters who spend significant amounts of time aboard ship) about ferry-related security issues. This effort is intended to help ferry riders become an integrated part of the overall maritime security effort.

According to the 9/11 Commission Report, “private sector citizens are likely to be the first to respond” to most terrorist attacks. This is particularly true in threat scenarios involving ferries. The passengers – on the water and isolated from first response professionals – will depend on themselves, and a small number of crew members to

respond to an incident. Engaging the ferry-riding public in an awareness program will help make them a part of the solution for first responders, rather than a part of the problem.

Ferry passengers are a captive audience. Their time aboard ship and in passenger and vehicle holding areas present a unique opportunity to provide on-site training in the operational environment where it is most applicable.

Videos: A series of short films has been produced which impart program basics. Subjects include: "A Plan to Keep You Safe", "Meet the Crew", "Alert, Not Afraid", "Lifejackets", "Assembly Stations", and "Emergency Evacuation Plan". The videos will be delivered via flat panel displays aboard high density vessels Wenatchee & Tacoma, as well as the Seattle and Anacortes terminals.

Video Flat Panels and Server: The video panels are networked with a server which allows for commercial programming, real-time traffic information, and tourism promotion spots - in addition to the airing of the safety and security videos. Through commercial air time sales, the system will become fully self-supported, and will require no future public funds to support their maintenance. Initial funds came from the federal government, Department of Homeland Security.

New Safety and Security Brochures and Posters: In addition, newly developed safety and security brochures and posters will help to further these messages.

Subject Matter Experts: A number of safety and security experts will be available on high density boats and terminals (also the international route in Anacortes) over a 2-day period (May 24th, 25th) to answer passenger questions during the initial roll out of the new videos and panels.

Websites for public questions regarding the program: Public questions can currently be addressed at the Homeland Security Institute website at, www.hsi.wa.gov, or at the WSF website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/.

Additional overall marketing plans listed at end of section concerning ERIFS.

The Emergency Responder Interface with Ferry Systems (ERIFS)

Curriculum:

This course is a Department of Homeland Security sponsored course which will be delivered nationwide upon curriculum approval.

Module 1: Maritime Terrorism Awareness

Terrorism Definition Terrorism Facts Awareness of Maritime Risks and Vulnerabilities Maritime Terrorist Attack Scenarios and Events Pre and Post Impacts on Responder Disciplines

This introductory module provides the definition of terrorism, history of key Maritime terrorism events, targets of terrorism, maritime risks and vulnerabilities and impacts of terrorism on ferry systems. At the conclusion of the module, you will be able to define terrorism, describe two key maritime terrorist events, list at least five terrorist targets, describe three risks or vulnerabilities to ferry vessels and list and discuss three pre and post impacts of terrorism on ferry systems.

Module 2: Ferry Vessels and the Environment

Ferry Crew Roles and Responsibilities
Ferry Vessel Organization Typical/Basic
Vessel Construction Responder Considerations Aboard Vehicle Ferries
Environmental Impacts on Emergency Responders Land Structures: Piers, Wharfs, Terminals, and Moorings

This module will discuss the maritime environment and the hazards associated with responding to a terrorist event on board a ferry vessel. This module will also introduce the unique challenges that must be overcome when responding to a ferry vessel incident; cover the roles and responsibilities of ferry vessel crews, and ferry vessel construction and systems.

Module 3: Response and Recovery Considerations

Incident Priorities
Maritime Response Considerations
Plans, Policies, and Procedures
Ferry Vessel CBRNE Event Phases
Recognizing Your Own Agency's Capabilities and Limitations
Preparedness Considerations

This module will discuss tactical considerations that emergency responder's should consider while developing response plans, conducting training scenarios, or responding to an emergency on board a ferry vessel. This module will also address the notification, response, and recovery phases of an event. Lastly, it reviews agency capabilities and limitations, and covers the resources available to an incident commander.

Module 4: Command & Policy Considerations

National Response Plan Review
Governmental Organizations
The Attorney General and the Federal Bureau of Investigation
Maritime Incident Command System Organization

Transition to Unified Command

Communication Considerations

Lessons learned from major vessel disasters have shown that the largest problems that face crewmembers and emergency responders are, command and control, and the ability to properly communicate between responding organizations. NIMS training is a prerequisite for this course. This module will review the National Response Plan, the NIMS/ICS in a maritime application, and will discuss the transition to a unified command, emergency response organizations, pre-incident considerations, and jurisdictional stakeholder concerns.

Ferry operations across the nation differ considerably, depending on the conditions faced, types of boats, services provided, and other local considerations. The information contained in the course is applicable to any ferry system. Consequently, the course has been structured to allow the instructor and the audience, to discuss and apply the information presented to their specific local jurisdiction.

This is accomplished in three ways. The first is through designated “discipline checkpoints” or designated topical discussion points which appear throughout the text. The second is by keeping the course delivery period to 4 hours, which allows for further facilitated discussion, and/or tabletop exercises to take place immediately after the course delivery. The third is by offering a supplemental template (provided in the back of the instructor’s manual) which pinpoints key issues that would likely differ between jurisdiction and/or discipline.

The template model is especially effective as the course will be delivered using the train-the-trainer model. Trainers from specific states, counties, etc. can use the template provided in the instructor’s manual to assist them in their tailoring efforts.

The course will deliberately stimulate and encourage response planning discussions amongst first responders, volunteer groups; various disciplines (e.g. fire, police, medical) and associated local, state, and federal government employees, and local ferry service providers.

Questions which arise during the training will help emergency response communities to identify and address their unique emergency response considerations, from a multi-disciplined, multi-dimensional local perspective, which will ultimately assist in the creation or revision of their existing ferry emergency response plans. These may include local weather and water conditions, specific ferry boat and terminal construction and layout issues, and particular area of terrorism or disaster concerns.

Although the course has not been designated as sensitive security information, individual jurisdictions may need to consider this designation when developing plans and exercises.

This training course is currently in the final stages of development and approval, and it is anticipated that this course will be offered first in the Puget Sound area in late summer or early fall of 2007. An interactive, online version of ERIFS – using the latest

distance learning techniques – will also be developed for individual study later in the year.

Target Audience

The target audience for this course includes first responders, volunteer groups, various emergency response disciplines, and associated local, state and federal government employees and local ferry service providers.

Instructor Student Ratio: 1-20 based on the 4-hour class delivery time.

Prerequisite Recommendation

WMD Awareness (AWR160) and NIMS (IS700) training is recommended prior to taking this awareness level course.

Legend

Instructor Notes

Instructor notes are located in the shaded text boxes in the Instructor Guide. The notes provide background information on the topic for instructors, suggestions on presenting the materials through the use of questions and discussion, and provide links to additional information regarding the topic on the internet.

Slides

Slides provide additional information and study resources that may or may not be discussed in class.

Italicized Text Italics are used to emphasize certain content and terms throughout the modules.

Red or Black Bold Text Within the text, certain actions are bolded in red in order to alert the student to an important caution or danger warning.

Discipline Check Points



Discipline checkpoints are included to accentuate areas where a responder may want to consider the particular impact or planning considerations on their discipline or jurisdiction.

Additional Program Marketing: HSI plans include marketing events such as;

- Using “Project Impact” televised program to further our messages using a panel of partners to discuss program elements and outcomes
- Taping program, distribute to local cable access stations in and around the

Puget Sound. Developing Radio/Television Public Service Announcements
Attending Emergency Response conferences to further project Inviting government
officials to press coverage events Using ferry database to forward interest and
understanding of curriculum Inviting televised and print news coverage to FPPP and
curriculum roll out Using Ferry Advisory Committee to inform island communities
Developing Brochures focusing on ERIFS course and training
opportunities